CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim Amendment Summary

Claims pending

- Before this Amendment: Claims 1-37.

- After this Amendment: Claims 1-37

Non-Elected, Canceled, or Withdrawn claims: None

Amended claims: 1, 25, 29 and 34

New claims: None

Claims:

1.   **(Currently Amended)** A method comprising:

receiving a request to play a first audio file and a second audio file;

progressively analyzing consecutive data samples of the first audio file to determine a data sample wherein a threshold is reached; wherein analyzing the data samples of the first audio file identifies to identify a first effective start position[[,]] and a fade-out position associated with the first audio file;

progressively analyzing consecutive data samples of the second audio file to determine a data sample wherein a threshold is reached; wherein analyzing the data samples of the second audio file identifies to identify a second effective start position associated with the second audio file;

playing the first audio file ~~from~~ beginning at the first effective start position;

upon reaching the fade-out position associated with the first audio file:

fading-out playback of the first audio file; and

simultaneously fading-in playback of ~~playing~~ the second audio file ~~from~~ beginning at the second effective start position.

2. **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the fade-out position is located a predetermined time ahead of an effective end position associated with the first audio file.

3. **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the first effective start position differs from the start of the first audio file.

4. **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising fading-out playback of the second audio file upon reaching a fade-out position associated with the second audio file.

5. **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the first effective start position and the fade-out position associated with the first audio file are stored in a media library.

6.   **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the first effective start position and the fade-out position associated with the first audio file are stored in the first audio file.

7.   **(Original)** One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 1.

8.   **(Original)** A method comprising:

receiving a request to analyze an audio file;

selecting the first two data samples in the audio file;

calculating an average value of the first two data samples in the audio file;

if the average value exceeds a threshold value, marking the second data sample as an effective start position associated with the audio file and marking the first data sample as silent;

if the average value does not exceed the threshold value:

selecting subsequent data samples in the audio file and updating the average value of all selected data samples until the average value exceeds a threshold value;

marking a current data sample as an effective start position associated with the audio file; and

marking previously selected data samples as silent.

9. **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 8 wherein the average value of the data samples is calculated based on volume levels in the audio file.

10. **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 8 further comprising saving the effective start position associated with the audio file to a media library.

11. **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 8 further comprising saving the effective start position associated with the audio file to a storage device that stores the audio file.

12. **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 8 further comprising saving information regarding data samples marked as silent to a storage device that stores the audio file.

13. **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 8 wherein the effective start position is applied during subsequent playback of the audio file.

14. (Original) A method as recited in claim 8 wherein the effective start position is applied during subsequent playback of the audio file to determine a point at which the audio file begins to fade-in as a previous audio file fades out.

15. (Original) One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 8.

16. (Original) A method comprising:

receiving a request to analyze an audio file;

selecting the last two data samples in the audio file;

calculating an average value of the last two data samples in the audio file;

if the average value exceeds a threshold value, marking the last data sample as an effective end position associated with the audio file and marking the other selected data sample as silent;

if the average value does not exceed the threshold value:

selecting previous data samples in the audio file and updating the average value of all selected data samples until the average value exceeds a threshold value;

marking a current data sample as an effective end position associated with the audio file; and

marking previously selected data samples as silent.

17. (Original) A method as recited in claim 16 wherein the method is performed by a media player application.

18. (Original) A method as recited in claim 16 further comprising saving the effective end position associated with the audio file in a media library.

19. (Original) A method as recited in claim 16 further comprising saving the effective end position associated with the audio file to a storage device that stores the audio file.

20. (Original) A method as recited in claim 16 wherein the average value of the data samples is calculated based on volume levels in the audio file.

21. (Original) A method as recited in claim 16 further comprising saving information regarding data samples marked as silent to a storage device that stores the audio file.

22. **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 16 wherein the effective end position is applied during subsequent playback of the audio file.

23. **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 16 wherein the effective end position is applied during subsequent playback of the audio file to determine a point at which the audio file begins to fade-out.

24. **(Original)** One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 16.

25. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus comprising:

a cross-fade parameter calculator to <u>progressively analyze consecutive data samples of the first audio file to determine a data sample wherein a threshold is reached</u> ~~analyze data samples of an audio file~~ and calculate at least one fade-out parameter associated with the audio file;

a media library coupled to the cross-fade parameter calculator, the media library to store fade-out parameters associated with a plurality of audio files<u>, wherein the fade-out parameters are stored separate from the audio files; and</u>

~~wherein the fade-out parameters are stored separate from the audio files;~~ ~~and~~

a cross-fader coupled to the media library, the cross-fader to apply fade-out parameters during playback of audio files.

26.   (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 25 wherein the cross-fade parameter calculator calculates an effective start position associated with the audio file.

27.   (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 25 wherein the cross-fade parameter calculator calculates an effective end position associated with the audio file.

28.   (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 25 wherein the cross-fader retrieves fade-out parameters from the media library.

29.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a request to play a first audio file followed by a second audio file;

means for progressively analyzing consecutive data samples of the first audio file to determine a data sample wherein a threshold is reached analyzing data samples of the first audio file; wherein analyzing the data samples of the

~~first audio file identifies~~ to identify a first effective start position and a fade-out position associated with the first audio file, and

progressively analyzing consecutive data samples of the second audio file to determine a data sample wherein a threshold is reached ~~analyzing data samples of the second audio file; wherein analyzing the data samples of the second audio file identifies~~ to identify a second effective start position associated with the second audio file; and

means for playing the first audio file ~~from~~ beginning at the first effective start position, wherein upon reaching the fade-out position associated with the first audio file, the means for playing fades-out playback of the first audio file and begins playing the second audio file ~~from~~ beginning at the second effective start position.

30. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 29 wherein the fade-out position is located a predetermined time prior to an effective end position associated with the first audio file.

31. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 29 wherein the means for playing fades-out playback of the second audio file upon reaching a fade-out position associated with the second audio file.

32. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 29 wherein the start position associated with the first audio file, the fade-out position associated with the first audio file, and the second effective start position associated with the second audio file are retrieved from a media library.

33. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 29 wherein the start position associated with the first audio file and the fade-out position associated with the first audio file are retrieved from the first audio file.

34. (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to~~perform a method comprising~~:

~~receive~~ receiving a request to play a sequence of audio files;

~~analyze~~ progressively analyzing consecutive data samples ~~analyzing data samples of a first audio file~~ in the sequence of audio files, ~~wherein analyzing yields~~ yielding data ~~used~~ to calculate ~~a first~~ an effective start position and a fade-out position associated with the first audio file;

~~analyze~~ progressively analyzing consecutive data samples ~~data samples~~ of a second audio file in the sequence of audio files, ~~wherein analyzing yields~~ yielding data ~~used~~ to calculate ~~a second~~ an effective start position associated

with a second audio file, wherein the second audio file is adjacent and subsequent to the first audio file within the sequence of audio files;

play playing the first audio file from beginning at the first effective start position associated with the first audio file;

upon reaching the fade-out position associated with the first audio file:

fade-out fading-out playback of the first audio file; and

play playing the second audio file from beginning at the second effective start position associated with the second audio file.

35. **(Original)** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 34 wherein the fade-out position associated with the first audio file is calculated by subtracting a predetermined time period from an effective end position associated with the first audio file.

36. **(Original)** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 34 wherein the one or more processors further fade-out playback of the second audio file upon reaching a fade-out position associated with the second audio file.

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37. **(Original)** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 34 wherein the one or more processors further calculate effective start positions and fade-out positions associated with each audio file in the sequence of audio files.